

I write because several large and influential media companies have been ignoring their legal and eithica responsibilities to the citizens of the United States.

The most recent example is Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas. Powerful media groups have privileged access to the public airwaves, and government -- the voice and power of citizens -- has the responsibility to intervene when this happens. I am writing to urge you to do so.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.